

Released January 28, 2000, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Sheep and Goats" call Steve Anderson at 202-690-3236, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Total Sheep and Lamb Inventory Down 3 Percent

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2000, totaled 7.03 million head, down 3 percent from 1999 and 10 percent below two years ago. Inventory has declined since 1942 when it reached a peak of 56.2 million head.

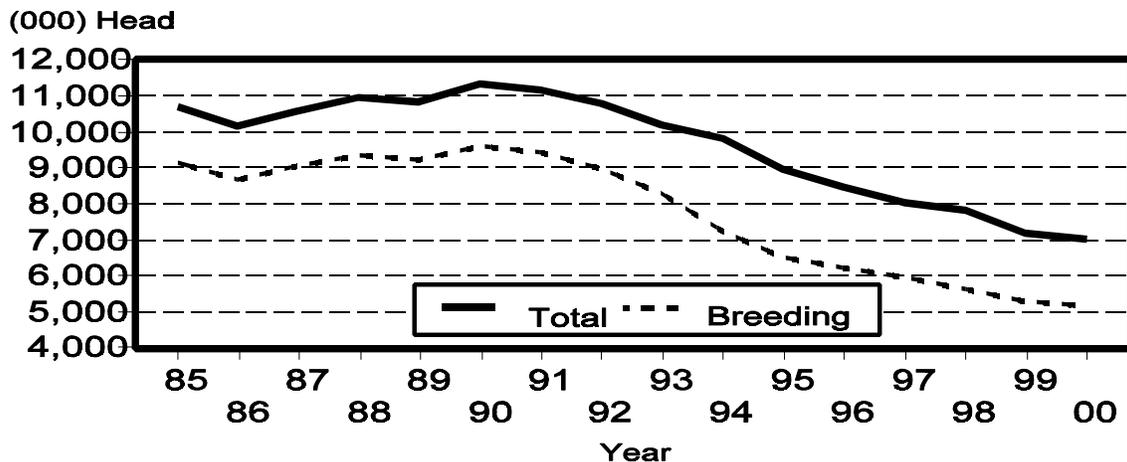
Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.16 million head on January 1, 2000, down 3 percent from 5.30 million head on January 1, 1999. Ewes one year old and older, at 4.23 million head, were 2 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2000, totaled 1.86 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 1999. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-four percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 26 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head was down 6 percent from 1998 to a new record low. The 1999 lambing rate was 109 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 1999, compared with 110 in 1998.

The number of operations with sheep during 1999 totaled 66,800, down 3 percent from 1998 and 8 percent from 1997.

Sheep and Lambs, 1985-2000 United States

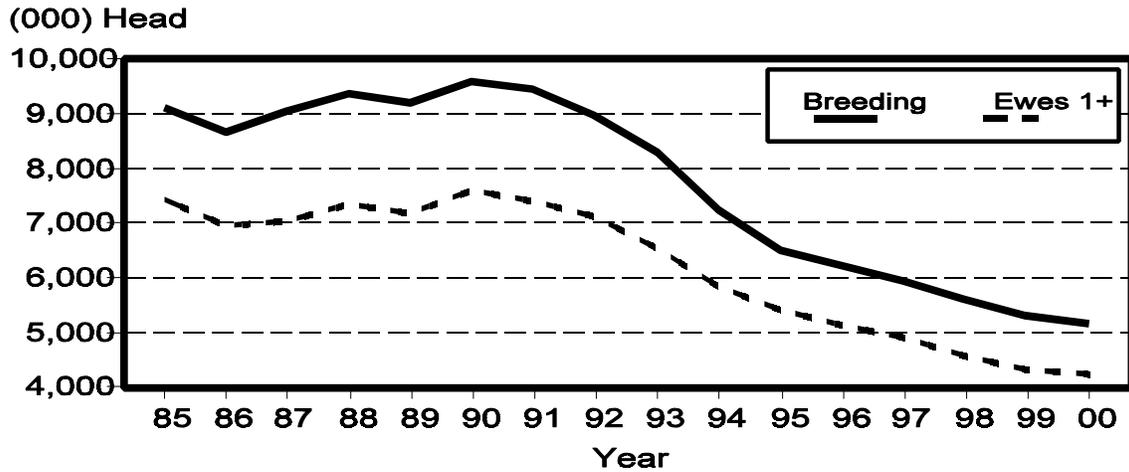


**Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Class, United States
January 1, 1998-2000¹**

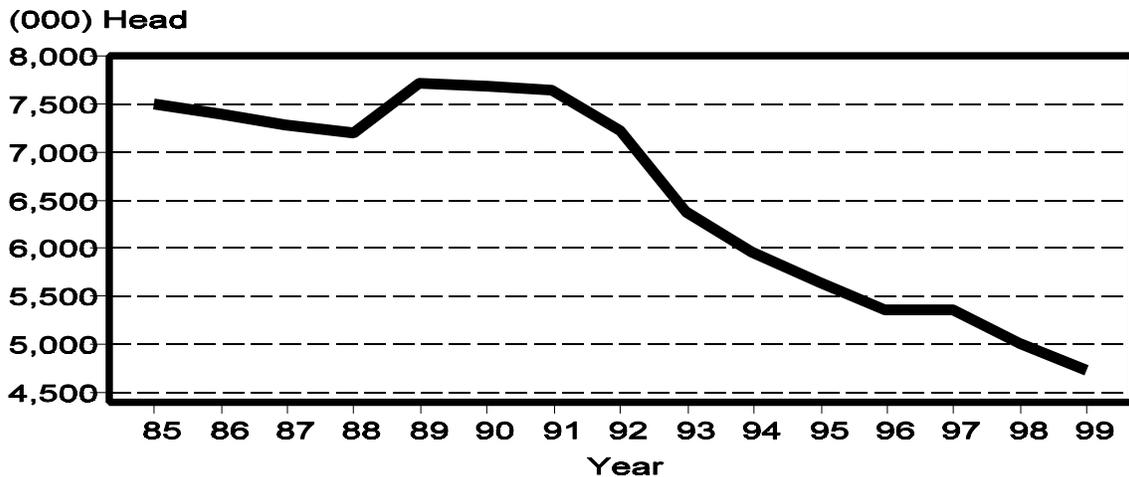
Class	1998	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999
	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>1,000 head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
All Sheep and Lambs	7,825	7,215	7,026	97
Market	2,214	1,916	1,863	97
Breeding Sheep and Lambs	5,611	5,299	5,163	97
Replacement Lambs - Under One Year Old	839	774	730	94
Ewes - One Year Old and Older	4,570	4,322	4,228	98
Rams - One Year Old and Older	203	203	206	101

¹ May not add due to rounding.

**Total Breeding and Ewes 1+, 1985 -2000
United States**



**Lamb Crop, 1985-99
United States**



**Lamb Crop: Per 100 Ewes 1+, Number and Percent of Previous
Year, by State and United States, 1998-1999**

State	Breeding Ewes 1 Year & Older Jan 1		Lambs per 100 Ewes 1+ Jan 1		Lamb Crop ¹		
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	63.0	58.0	75	78	47.0	45.0	96
CA	345.0	330.0	90	88	310.0	290.0	94
CO	200.0	185.0	110	114	220.0	210.0	95
ID	194.0	185.0	124	138	240.0	255.0	106
IL	56.0	52.0	130	133	73.0	69.0	95
IN	32.0	35.0	156	151	50.0	53.0	106
IA	138.0	133.0	152	158	210.0	210.0	100
KS	66.0	57.0	106	111	70.0	63.0	90
MI	38.0	34.0	121	132	46.0	45.0	98
MN	85.0	90.0	182	161	155.0	145.0	94
MO	54.0	58.0	148	129	80.0	75.0	94
MT	315.0	270.0	113	126	355.0	340.0	96
NE	71.0	73.0	135	134	96.0	98.0	102
NV	56.0	53.0	102	109	57.0	58.0	102
N ENG ²	30.6	34.0	127	118	39.0	40.0	103
NM	190.0	180.0	87	89	165.0	160.0	97
NY	38.0	36.0	124	133	47.0	48.0	102
ND	78.0	79.0	135	139	105.0	110.0	105
OH	85.0	85.0	145	142	123.0	121.0	98
OK	44.0	34.0	91	103	40.0	35.0	88
OR	150.0	120.0	109	117	163.0	140.0	86
PA	57.0	55.0	126	127	72.0	70.0	97
SD	300.0	270.0	115	119	345.0	320.0	93
TX	880.0	880.0	91	80	800.0	700.0	88
UT	320.0	305.0	109	108	350.0	330.0	94
VA	46.0	41.0	120	122	55.0	50.0	91
WA	35.0	35.0	160	154	56.0	54.0	96
WV	30.0	30.0	127	120	38.0	36.0	95
WI	51.0	52.0	137	140	70.0	73.0	104
WY	430.0	385.0	102	101	440.0	390.0	89
Sts ³	91.9	88.0	98	98	90.0	86.0	96
US	4,569.5	4,322.0	110	109	5,007.0	4,719.0	94

¹ Lamb crop is defined as lambs born in the Eastern States and lambs docked or branded in the Western States.

² N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

³ Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**All Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Class,
State, and United States, January 1, 1999-2000**

State	All Sheep and Lambs			Total Breeding		Total Market	
	1999	2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	140.0	155.0	111	68.0	66.0	72.0	89.0
CA	810.0	800.0	99	390.0	380.0	420.0	420.0
CO	440.0	440.0	100	220.0	210.0	220.0	230.0
ID	265.0	275.0	104	231.0	245.0	34.0	30.0
IL	74.0	74.0	100	64.0	63.0	10.0	11.0
IN	57.0	59.0	104	47.0	50.0	10.0	9.0
IA	260.0	265.0	102	170.0	170.0	90.0	95.0
KS	100.0	100.0	100	70.0	65.0	30.0	35.0
MI	62.0	68.0	110	44.0	51.0	18.0	17.0
MN	175.0	165.0	94	110.0	105.0	65.0	60.0
MO	85.0	80.0	94	71.0	66.0	14.0	14.0
MT	380.0	370.0	97	345.0	340.0	35.0	30.0
NE	105.0	102.0	97	88.0	88.0	17.0	14.0
NV	85.0	90.0	106	75.0	78.0	10.0	12.0
N ENG ¹	50.0	50.0	100	44.0	45.0	6.0	5.0
NM	275.0	290.0	105	225.0	230.0	50.0	60.0
NY	55.0	58.0	105	46.0	50.0	9.0	8.0
ND	134.0	135.0	101	98.0	103.0	36.0	32.0
OH	125.0	134.0	107	103.0	102.0	22.0	32.0
OK	55.0	55.0	100	41.0	40.0	14.0	15.0
OR	215.0	210.0	98	150.0	151.0	65.0	59.0
PA	83.0	80.0	96	71.0	68.0	12.0	12.0
SD	420.0	420.0	100	325.0	320.0	95.0	100.0
TX	1,350.0	1,200.0	89	1,050.0	950.0	300.0	250.0
UT	400.0	400.0	100	360.0	360.0	40.0	40.0
VA	65.0	61.0	94	51.0	48.0	14.0	13.0
WA	50.0	50.0	100	44.0	43.0	6.0	7.0
WV	40.0	37.0	93	35.0	31.0	5.0	6.0
WI	83.0	83.0	100	66.0	65.0	17.0	18.0
WY	630.0	570.0	90	480.0	460.0	150.0	110.0
Sts ²	147.0	150.0	102	117.0	120.0	30.0	30.0
US	7,215.0	7,026.0	97	5,299.0	5,163.0	1,916.0	1,863.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Breeding Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Class, State,
and United States, January 1, 1999-2000**

State	Breeding Sheep-One Year Old & Older				Replacement Lambs		Total Breeding Sheep and Lambs	
	Ewes		Rams		1999	2000	1999	2000
	1999	2000	1999	2000				
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	58.0	58.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	5.0	68.0	66.0
CA	330.0	320.0	15.0	15.0	45.0	45.0	390.0	380.0
CO	185.0	175.0	6.0	6.0	29.0	29.0	220.0	210.0
ID	185.0	205.0	5.0	5.0	41.0	35.0	231.0	245.0
IL	52.0	50.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	9.0	64.0	63.0
IN	35.0	38.0	3.0	3.0	9.0	9.0	47.0	50.0
IA	133.0	139.0	7.0	7.0	30.0	24.0	170.0	170.0
KS	57.0	52.0	4.0	4.0	9.0	9.0	70.0	65.0
MI	34.0	38.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	10.0	44.0	51.0
MN	90.0	85.0	5.0	5.0	15.0	15.0	110.0	105.0
MO	58.0	52.0	4.0	4.0	9.0	10.0	71.0	66.0
MT	270.0	274.0	9.0	9.0	66.0	57.0	345.0	340.0
NE	73.0	72.0	4.0	4.0	11.0	12.0	88.0	88.0
NV	53.0	58.0	2.0	2.0	20.0	18.0	75.0	78.0
N ENG ¹	34.0	34.0	2.8	3.0	7.2	8.0	44.0	45.0
NM	180.0	190.0	10.0	10.0	35.0	30.0	225.0	230.0
NY	36.0	38.0	3.0	3.0	7.0	9.0	46.0	50.0
ND	79.0	86.0	3.0	3.0	16.0	14.0	98.0	103.0
OH	85.0	81.0	5.0	6.0	13.0	15.0	103.0	102.0
OK	34.0	33.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	5.0	41.0	40.0
OR	120.0	121.0	6.0	6.0	24.0	24.0	150.0	151.0
PA	55.0	53.0	5.0	5.0	11.0	10.0	71.0	68.0
SD	270.0	270.0	9.0	9.0	46.0	41.0	325.0	320.0
TX	880.0	790.0	40.0	40.0	130.0	120.0	1,050.0	950.0
UT	305.0	310.0	10.0	11.0	45.0	39.0	360.0	360.0
VA	41.0	39.0	2.5	2.5	7.5	6.5	51.0	48.0
WA	35.0	34.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	44.0	43.0
WV	30.0	26.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	4.0	35.0	31.0
WI	52.0	52.0	3.0	3.0	11.0	10.0	66.0	65.0
WY	385.0	365.0	13.0	13.0	82.0	82.0	480.0	460.0
Sts ²	88.0	90.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	18.0	117.0	120.0
US	4,322.0	4,228.0	203.3	205.5	773.7	729.5	5,299.0	5,163.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Weight Group, State,
and United States, January 1, 1999**

State	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Pounds	85 to 105 Pounds	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
AZ	14.0	15.0	13.0	29.0	71.0	1.0	72.0
CA	205.0	85.0	75.0	35.0	400.0	20.0	420.0
CO	7.0	5.0	52.0	155.0	219.0	1.0	220.0
ID	5.0	1.0	8.0	15.0	29.0	5.0	34.0
IL	3.0	1.5	3.0	1.5	9.0	1.0	10.0
IN	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
IA	8.0	13.0	30.0	38.0	89.0	1.0	90.0
KS	15.0	6.0	5.0	1.0	27.0	3.0	30.0
MI	2.5	2.0	5.5	7.5	17.5	0.5	18.0
MN	17.0	13.0	17.0	17.0	64.0	1.0	65.0
MO	2.0	5.0	4.5	2.0	13.5	0.5	14.0
MT	2.0	6.0	20.0	6.0	34.0	1.0	35.0
NE	3.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	16.0	1.0	17.0
NV			4.0	5.0	9.0	1.0	10.0
N ENG ¹	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.5	5.0	1.0	6.0
NM	15.0	12.0	9.0	10.0	46.0	4.0	50.0
NY	5.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	8.0	1.0	9.0
ND	1.5	8.0	19.0	6.5	35.0	1.0	36.0
OH	7.0	7.0	5.0	2.0	21.0	1.0	22.0
OK	5.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	13.0	1.0	14.0
OR	14.0	6.0	36.0	4.0	60.0	5.0	65.0
PA	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	10.0	2.0	12.0
SD	4.0	22.0	27.0	40.0	93.0	2.0	95.0
TX	120.0	70.0	60.0	40.0	290.0	10.0	300.0
UT	1.0	3.0	10.0	19.0	33.0	7.0	40.0
VA	4.5	3.5	3.5	2.0	13.5	0.5	14.0
WA	1.0		3.0	2.0	6.0		6.0
WV	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	5.0		5.0
WI	3.5	3.5	6.0	3.0	16.0	1.0	17.0
WY	2.0	19.0	80.0	47.0	148.0	2.0	150.0
Sts ²	12.0	6.5	3.5	2.0	24.0	6.0	30.0
US	490.4	328.1	513.0	502.0	1,833.5	82.5	1,916.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

**Market Sheep and Lambs: Number, by Weight Group, State,
and United States, January 1, 2000**

State	Market Lambs					Market Sheep	Total Market Sheep and Lambs
	Under 65 Pounds	65 to 84 Pounds	85 to 105 Pounds	Over 105 Pounds	Total		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>						
AZ	12.0	22.0	26.0	28.0	88.0	1.0	89.0
CA	195.0	80.0	80.0	50.0	405.0	15.0	420.0
CO	4.0	6.0	47.0	172.0	229.0	1.0	230.0
ID	3.0	1.0	6.0	19.0	29.0	1.0	30.0
IL	3.5	2.0	2.0	3.0	10.5	0.5	11.0
IN	2.5	2.5	2.5	1.0	8.5	0.5	9.0
IA	10.0	13.0	33.0	37.0	93.0	2.0	95.0
KS	12.0	5.0	10.0	5.0	32.0	3.0	35.0
MI	2.0	3.0	4.0	7.0	16.0	1.0	17.0
MN	14.0	12.0	16.0	17.0	59.0	1.0	60.0
MO	2.5	3.0	4.0	4.0	13.5	0.5	14.0
MT	2.0	4.0	15.0	7.0	28.0	2.0	30.0
NE	3.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	13.0	1.0	14.0
NV		2.0	4.0	5.0	11.0	1.0	12.0
N ENG ¹	2.1	1.0	0.5	0.4	4.0	1.0	5.0
NM	10.0	15.0	20.0	10.0	55.0	5.0	60.0
NY	4.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	1.0	8.0
ND	2.0	8.0	13.0	8.0	31.0	1.0	32.0
OH	10.0	7.0	8.0	3.0	28.0	4.0	32.0
OK	6.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	14.0	1.0	15.0
OR	10.0	7.0	27.0	12.0	56.0	3.0	59.0
PA	4.0	3.0	2.0	1.0	10.0	2.0	12.0
SD	6.0	27.0	29.0	36.0	98.0	2.0	100.0
TX	100.0	50.0	45.0	40.0	235.0	15.0	250.0
UT	3.0	2.0	10.0	20.0	35.0	5.0	40.0
VA	4.5	3.5	3.0	1.5	12.5	0.5	13.0
WA	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	7.0		7.0
WV	3.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	6.0		6.0
WI	3.5	4.5	6.0	3.0	17.0	1.0	18.0
WY	2.0	13.0	52.0	41.0	108.0	2.0	110.0
Sts ²	13.0	5.5	3.0	2.5	24.0	6.0	30.0
US	450.6	313.0	477.0	542.4	1,783.0	80.0	1,863.0

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

Sheep and Lambs: January 1, 1998-1999

State	Operations with Sheep	
	1998	1999
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AZ	300	300
CA	3,300	3,100
CO	1,700	1,500
ID	1,100	1,100
IL	2,600	2,400
IN	2,200	2,200
IA	4,900	4,700
KS	1,600	1,500
MI	1,600	1,700
MN	2,600	2,700
MO	2,000	1,900
MT	2,000	1,900
NE	1,700	1,700
NV	300	300
N ENG ¹	2,100	2,100
NM	900	900
NY	1,600	1,400
ND	1,150	1,200
OH	3,600	3,700
OK	1,600	1,500
OR	3,100	3,000
PA	2,600	2,500
SD	2,500	2,500
TX	7,000	7,000
UT	1,500	1,500
VA	1,500	1,300
WA	1,200	1,200
WV	1,100	1,000
WI	2,100	2,200
WY	1,100	1,000
Sts ²	6,000	5,800
US	68,550	66,800

¹ N ENG includes CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT.

² Other States include AL, AK, AR, DE, FL, GA, HI, KY, LA, MD, MS, NJ, NC, SC, and TN.

Breeding Sheep: Survey Percent by Size Group, United States, 1999-2000 ¹

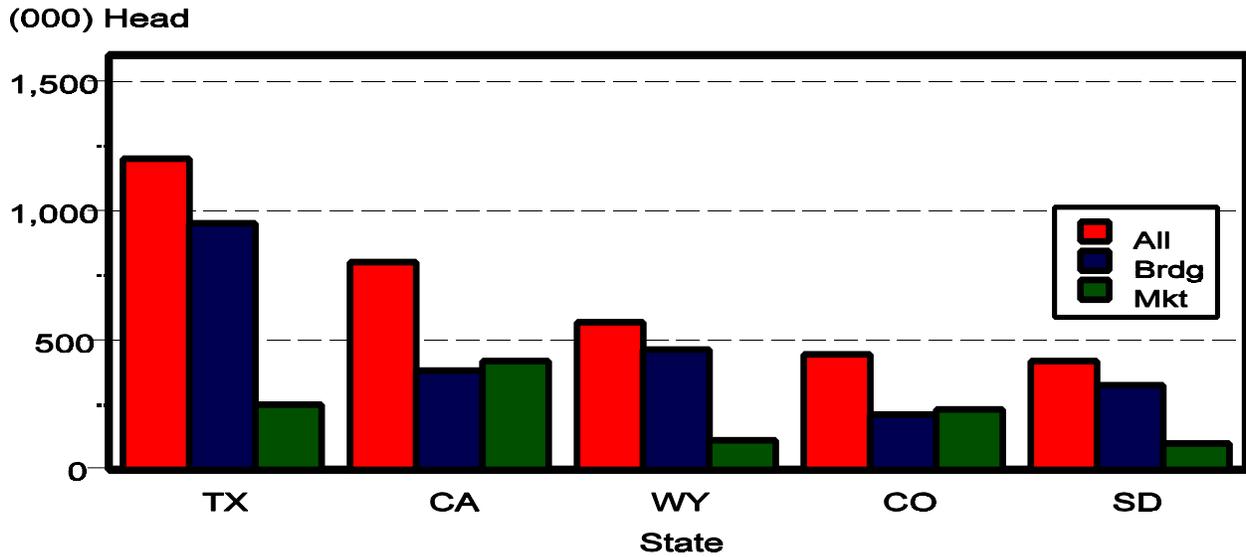
Item	1-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-4999 Head		5000+ Head	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>Percent</i>							
Operations	90.6	91.2	7.3	7.2	2.0	1.6	0.1	0.1
Inventory	25.9	27.9	20.4	22.0	39.0	35.2	14.7	14.8

¹ Percents reflect distributions of end of year survey.

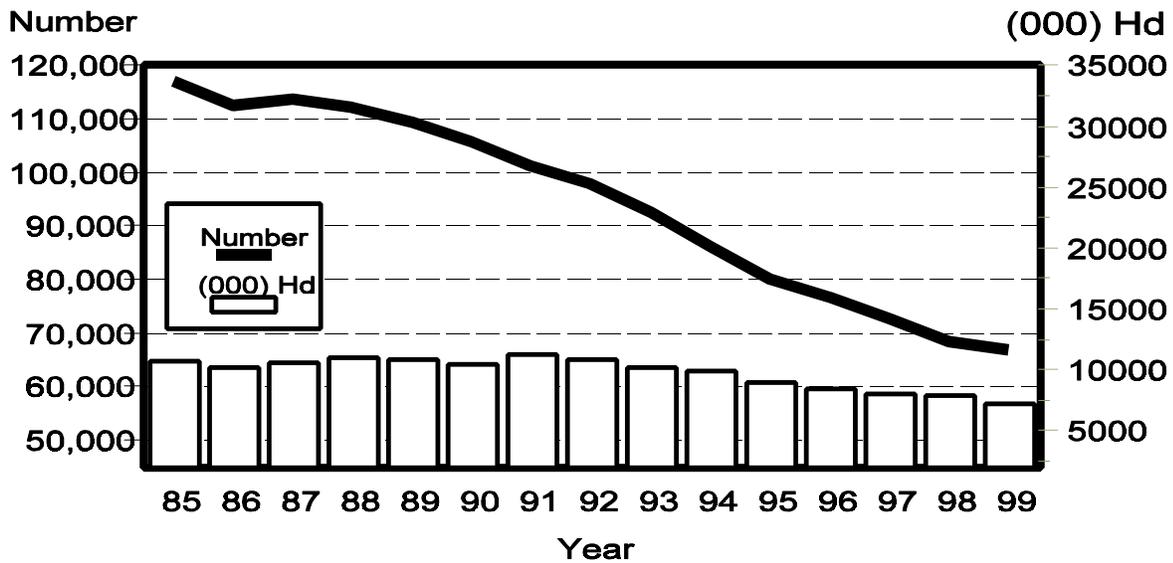
Goats: Inventory, Selected States, and Total, January 1, 1999-2000

State	Angora		All Goats	
	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	38	36	NA	NA
NM	38	30	NA	NA
TX	550	370	1,350	1,300
Total	626	436	1,350	1,300

Total Inventory, January 1, 2000 Top Five Sheep & Lamb Producing States



Number of Operations & Total Inventory, 1985-99 United States



Reliability of January 1 Sheep and Goat Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all sheep producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. About 13,800 operators were contacted during the first half of January by mail, telephone and face-to-face personal interview. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of January 1.

Estimation Procedures: These sheep estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness and with estimates from past years. A projected balance sheet for calendar year 1999 was also used. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared with the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve the current estimate. Previous year estimates are subject to revision when current estimates are made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Department of Agriculture's five-year census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all operations raising sheep and goats are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors, such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating reliability of the estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected sheep items in the table below. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between the first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for sheep and lamb inventory estimates over the past 10 years is 1.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 7.0 million head by more than 1.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.9 percent.

Also shown in the table is a 10-year record showing the range between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate. Using estimates for All Sheep and Lambs as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 64,000 head, ranging from 100 to 209,000 head. The initial inventory estimate of All Sheep and Lambs has been below the latest estimate 6 times and above the latest estimate 4 times in the last 10 years.

Reliability of U.S. January 1 Sheep and Lamb Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates ¹			Number of Quarters	
		Percent	(000) Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Sheep & Lambs	1.1	1.9	133.5	64.0	8.0	209.0	4	6
Breeding Sheep	0.8	1.4	72.3	41.0	2.0	78.0	5	5
Lamb Crop	1.0	1.8	84.9	25.0	4.0	112.0	4	6

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

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The next "Sheep" report will be released at 3 p.m. on July 21, 2000.

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